

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1178

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2122

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 04912

E.O.A. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC,IT

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SPINELLI TO RUN AS INDEPENDENT
FOR ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

1. THE LOCAL PRESS IS REPORTING THAT EC COMMISSION VICE
PRESIDENT SPINELLI WILL RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT ON THE ITALIAN
COMMUNIST LISTS.
2. IN A BRIEFING ON MAY 17 SPINELLI SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE
PERSONAL LEAVE DURING THE CAMPAIGN,BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY,
WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH EC REGULATIONS. HE WOULD RESIGN FROM
THE COMMISSION IF ELECTED,HE SAID.
3. SPINELLI SAID THAT HE WAS APPROACHED BY THE COMMUNISTS
WHO WANTED HIS CANDIDACY TO DEVELOP THEIR PRO-EUROPEAN
POSITION. HE BELIEVES THAT ITALIAN COMMUNISTS WILL HAVE A
"EUROPEAN ORIENTATION" AND CLAIMS THAT HE IS "NOT ABANDONING"
(HIS) EUROPEAN IDEALS FOR THE SALE OF NATIONAL POLITICS."
HE ARGUED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN ITALIAN
POLICIES WITH COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT.
4. SPINELLI SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN GUARANTEED FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION FOR ALL HIS IDEAS DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND
FREEDOM TO VOTE AS HE PLEASED IF ELECTED. ASKED HOW
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HE KNEW SUCH INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE TOLERATED BY THE COMMUNISTS

HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN INDEPENDENT ALL HIS LIFE.
"THE GUARANTEE OF MY INDEPENDENCE" HE SAID, "IS ME."

5 SPINELLI WILL BE PLACED NEAR THE HEAD OF THE ROME
LIST AND WHILE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE HE WILL BE ELECTED,M
HE SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS PROBABLE.

6. SPINELLI HINTED THAT MOST OF HIS FELLOW COMMISSIONERS
WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT HIS DECISION. HE SAID THAT ITALIAN
DEMOCRACY NEEDED COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION AND HE SAID
THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT EVENTUALLY HIS COLLEAGUES
WOULD SEE THE WISDOM OF HIS COURSE OF ACTION.
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